

II. REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 21 have been allowed (Office Action, dated August 9, 2006, at 5, lines 11-12).

Claims 12-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue patentability of the subject matter of canceled claims 12-20 in one or more divisional U.S. Patent applications.

Claim 11 has been amended to delete the word "arbitrary" from the claim. The present amendment has no further limiting effect on the scope of this claim. On the contrary, the present amendment actually broadens the scope of claim 11.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application and raises no new issues.

A. Applicants' Arguments

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 21 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10 and 21 have been allowed. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In view of the present amendment, claim 11 is now also in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

III. CONCLUSION

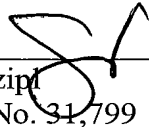
Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10 and 21 have been allowed. Claim 11 is now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and is therefore allowable.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11 and 21 are in condition for allowance, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

The below-signed attorney for Applicants welcomes any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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